



# Printed Logo on Leather

Written By: Tony Frazer

## TOOLS:

- Bowls (2)  
*one for decals, one for wetting down the project.*
- Paper towels (1)
- Scissors (1)  
*For cutting your decals*

## PARTS:

- Water-slide decal kit (1)
- Water-activated glue (1)
- Nail polish remover (1)

## SUMMARY

For Christmas we wanted to do something cool for our managers at work. We decided to do custom footballs and have all the employees sign a "game ball". Well, if you've ever priced getting a customized football, it's rather cost-prohibitive for just one, and we needed four. So I took on the task of customizing the balls with the company logo....should be easy, just google it...eh, not so easy for the DIYer, it turned out....so I had to figure it out myself.

The balls needed the company logo on them and it needed to be tough and resilient. With the basic idea of using printable water-slide decals I picked up at a hobby shop, I ran some tests on a blank piece of leather and I found the right mix and technique to get them to work on leather. The result is like a silkscreen.

## Step 1 — Printed Logo on Leather



- Follow the directions included with your decal kit. It's pretty straightforward: print, spray overcoat of clear sealant (included with the kit) and let dry completely.
- Cut decals to size and determine position.

## Step 2



- For this process you need to have everything prepped and ready to go. Things need to happen quickly.
- Get your decals soaking and get the leather nice and wet.
- When the decals are ready to slide, put a couple of drops of the glue on the leather and spread it out with wetted fingers to a very thin layer.
- Slide your decal into place.

### Step 3



- Dab off excess water and glue.
- Smooth the decal and get all air bubbles out.
- If there seems to be too much glue, try to squeegee it out with a finger.
- Once it looks good, leave it alone to cure for 3 or 4 hours.

### Step 4



- Clean up fingers with the nail polish remover. I did 4 balls (2 logos each) in about 10 minutes. I let them dry for 4 hours and they were ready to go.
- This technique will work on any leather, I suppose, but the glue will darken the leather and put a shine on it. These balls are dark and it doesn't show much.
- I have also posted this over at Instructables in their Holiday Contest. Please [vote](#) if you like it.

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